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Election
7-26-01

Patent

Attorney's Docket No. 011495-056

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of)
)
Kevin Lauren COTE, et al.) Group Art Unit: 3724
)
Application No.: 09/505,887) Examiner: C. Dexter
)
Filed: February 17, 2000)
)
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR)
PROVIDING POSITIVE CONTROL)
OF A PRINTABLE MEDIUM IN A)
PRINTING SYSTEM)

REPLY TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In complete response to the Office Action mailed June 8, 2001, Applicants elect method claims 20-23 and 27 (identified as Group I in the Office Action) with traverse, for prosecution on the merits.

Applicants respectfully note that the Examiner has intentionally included claim 20 in each of Groups I and II. Accordingly, the Examiner will necessarily search both a) Class 83, Subclass 409 to which Group I is classified, and b) Class 83, Subclass 436.3, to which Group II is classified.

Since the Examiner will search the same locations regardless of which Group is elected, Applicants respectfully submit that search and examination of the entire application (including both Groups of claims) can be made without serious burden. As noted in MPEP § 803, "*If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious*

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burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions."

For these reasons, withdrawal of the Election/Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

In the event any questions arise regarding this communication or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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